終焉ノ栞 (シュウエンノシオリ)

Previously on COMIC GENE

HIGHLIGHT

OUTLINE

THE URBAN LEGEND SAID TO SPAN VOLUMES, "BOOKMARK OF DEMISE." IF THE BLACK BOOK WITH THE CAT BOOKMARK ARE FOUND, THE DEMAND WRITTEN ON THE PAGE THE BOOKMARK IS PLACED MUST BE CARRIED OUT. IF THE REQUEST IS IGNORED, WHAT AWAITS IS DEATH. 4 STUDENTS BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS DEMISE GAME

STORY SO FAR

AFTER A-YA, B-KO, C-TA,AND D-NE PERFORM THE RITUAL TO FIND THE "BOOKMARK OF DEMISE," A STUDENT FROM THEIR SCHOOL IS FOUND DEAD —HIS BODY RIPPED COMPLETELY IN HALF, AND THE TENSION BE-TWEEN THE FOUR RISES. IS THIS REALLY BECAUSE OF THE BOOKMARK OF DEMISE? WHO IS THE TRAITOR THAT STARTED THE GAME? IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS PARANOIA, A-YA IS KILLED BY SOMEONE.

CHARACTERS

D-NE

A PURE AND QUIET GIRL. OFTEN COMPLIMENTS B-KO.

C-TA

THE MOST LE-VEL-HEADED AND CALM OF T THE FOUR. OFTEN MAKES FUN OF A-YA AND B-KO'S BICKERING.

B-KO

THE TOP CLASS BEAUTY AT SCHOOL, AND HUGELY POPULAR WITH THE BOYS. SHE'S USUALLY MODEST AND ELEGANT, BUT SHE ACTUA-LLY GETS ANGRY OFTEN.

A-YA

HAS DISCOVERED THE BOREDOM OF EVERYDAY LIFE. THE ONLY THING HE ENJOYS IS DELIBERATELY SPREADING RUMORS AROUND SCHOOL

ONE POINT

IN THE STORY OF "BOOKMARK OF DEMISE," THERE ARE SEVERAL URBAN LEGENDS BEING SPREAD AROUND THE SCHOOL. "ONE-MAN HIDE-AND-SEEK," "DOPPELGANGERS," "MEARY-SAN'S PHONE," "MONKEY'S PAW." ARE THERE ANY IN YOUR SCHOOL? IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, TRY INVESTIGATING THEM!

終焉ノ栞

Manga: Yuuki Amino
Author: Suzumu Culprit: 150P
Character Design: Saine
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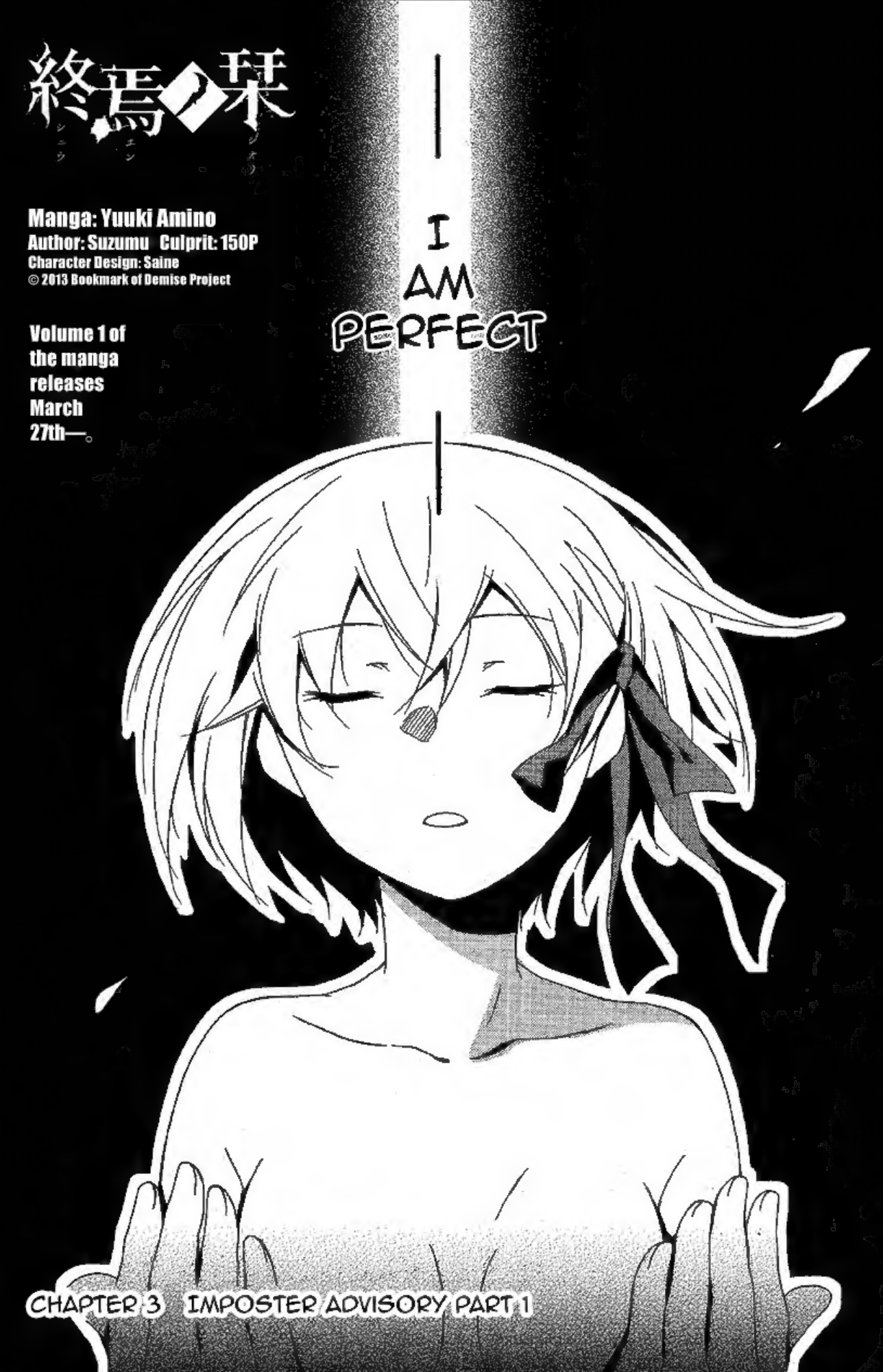
I AM PERFECT



CHAPTER 3 IMPOSTER ADVISORY PART 1

B-KO-CHAN, YOU'RE SO CUTE!
RIGHT—? AND GREAT STYLE, TOO, LIKE A MODEL...
SMART, AND EVEN A GREAT PERSONALITY... I REALLY ENVY YOU!
EH—... OH COME ON, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU EVEN HAVE GOOD REFLEXES! IT'S A SHAME YOU'RE NOT IN ANY CLUB~
COMPARED TO PEOPLE THAT ACTUALLY ARE IN A CLUB THOUGH, IT'S REALLY NOTHING.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! AND MORE THAN ANYTHING, YOU'RE REALLY POPULAR WITH THE GUYS.
RIGHT—? BUT IT'S B-KO, SO OF COURSE SHE IS~

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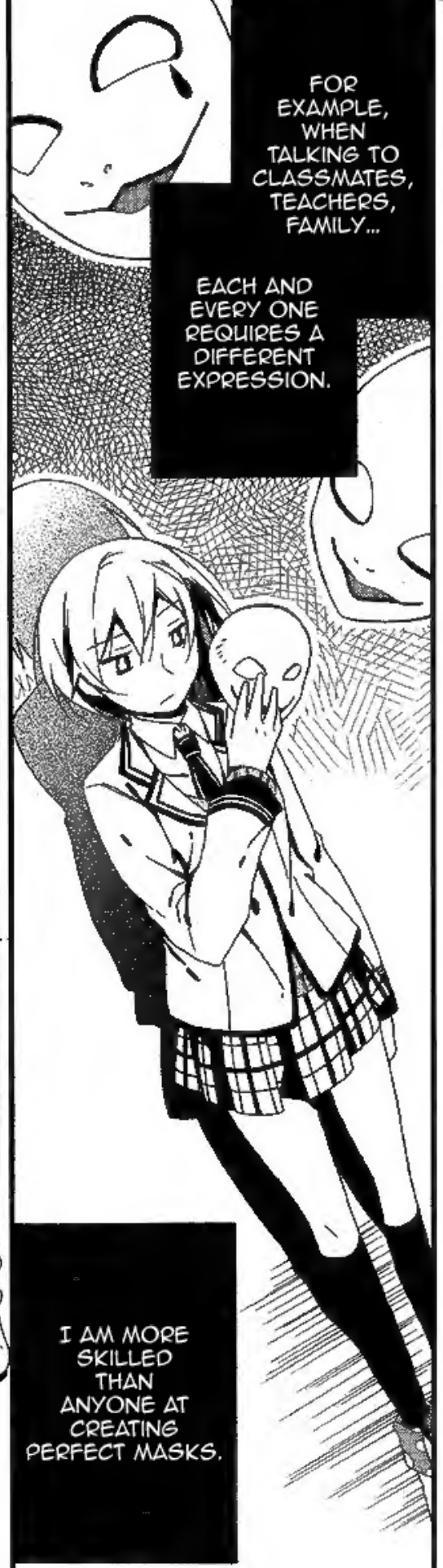
SO LIKE, DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON ANYONE?
HMM-... I DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT THAT~
TAP
ポン
IF I WAS A GUY, I'D CONFESS TO YOU.
REALLY? AHAHA
Thanks.
3
SMILE
OKAY, GOT IT.
キャッ *Kya*
キャッ *Kya*
IT'S A PROMISE!!
キーン *Ring*
コーン *Bong*...*
YOU SAID IT.
BUT, Y'KNOW, HONESTLY, THERE PROBABLY ISN'T ANY GUY THAT'S WORTHY OF DATING A GIRL LIKE B-KO~
ANYWAY, IF YOU FIND A CRUSH OR ANYTHING, MAKE SURE YOU TELL US! YOU HAVE TO!

ALL PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES WEARING DIFFERENT "MASKS"

終焉ノ栞

ONE OF THE REASONS IS BECAUSE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WAS CONSTANTLY TRANSFERRED TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AT MY PARENT'S CONVENIENCE.

HOW TO NOT MAKE ENEMIES
IT MAY SOUND DARK, BUT THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
HOW MANY PEOPLE COULD I GET TO LIKE ME? HOW COULD I LESSEN MY NUMBER OF ENEMIES?
AS A CHILD, I SPENT A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.


FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN TALKING TO CLASSMATES, TEACHERS, FAMILY...
EACH AND EVERY ONE REQUIRES A DIFFERENT EXPRESSION.
I AM MORE SKILLED THAN ANYONE AT CREATING PERFECT MASKS.

SUMMING IT ALL UP, THE "PERFECT ME" THAT I AM NOW IS
THE ONE WHO EVERYONE ENVIES, RELIES ON, AND LIKES.
.....
BUT, THAT ISN'T REALLY ME
CUNNING, WITH EMOTIONS ALWAYS OUT IN THE OPEN.
THAT IS THE KIND OF PERSON THAT *DWELLS* INSIDE OF ME

SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE, I BECAME ENVELOPED IN A SENSE OF ISOLATION, AS IF TRAPPED BY THE PEOPLE AROUND ME

AND ONE DAY, A SLIGHT IRREGULARITY OCCURRED.
IT ALL BEGAN FROM A SMALL "RUMOR"
IT SEEMS B-KO USED TO BE A GYARU WHEN SHE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SUCH SILLY GOSSIP... THE STUDENTS FROM THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL AS I DENIED THIS IMMEDIATELY, BUT...
THE SPEED IN WHICH THIS RUMOR HAD SPREAD WAS ABNORMAL.
BAM
"HA" "HAA"...
WHO COULD IT BE?...

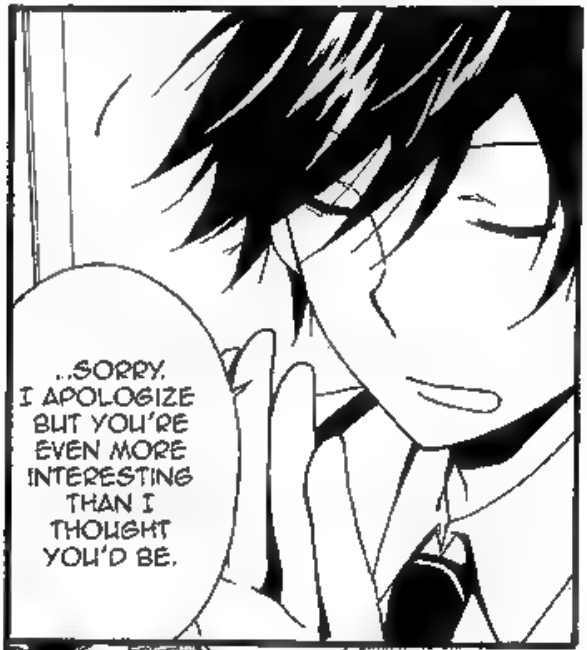
HA——…
HA——!…
THE CULPRIT…
I'LL MAKE SURE TO FIND WHO DID THIS, NO MATTER WHAT.
HA…
HOWEVER, FINDING THE CULPRIT WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN I HAD IMAGINED.

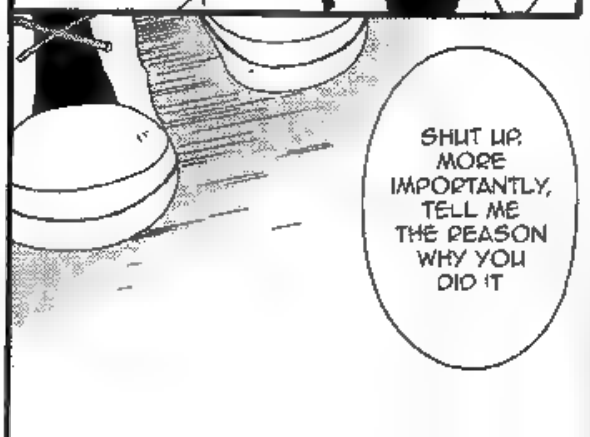
"WHO DID YOU HEAR IT FROM?"
EVERYONE THAT ANSWERED ME SAID THINGS LIKE
"I JUST DID"
"FROM A RUMOR"
WITHOUT GETTING ANY RESULT AT ALL, SEVERAL DAYS PASSED.
WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP GIVING ME THE SAME ANSWERS?
HOWEVER, ONE DAY, I PASSED BY THE ANSWER
"HMPH"
AH
WH-
I...
-OOSH...

HE'S THE CULPRIT.
THAT WAS WHAT MY INSTINCTS TOLD ME.
...HEY, YOU, WAIT UP
TURN
HM? WHAT IS IT... B-KO-SAN?
?
....UM.... THIS...IS OUR FIRST TIME MEETING, RIGHT?

THUMP
FUFU... I'M A-YA, NICE TO MEET YOU.
AHH, THAT'S RIGHT
SINCE YOU'RE SO FAMOUS, IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME
THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
THUMP
THUMP
IT'S HIM.
STARE...
...WHY DID YOU DO IT?
...HM?
I MADE NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE MY SUSPICION.

—TCH DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW!!
Huh
.. RUMOR?
WHY DID YOU SPREAD THAT RUMOR?

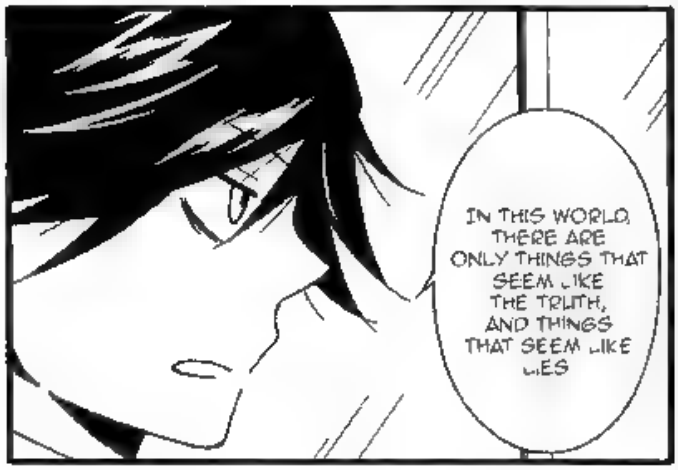

..SORRY. I APOLOGIZE BUT YOU'RE EVEN MORE INTERESTING THAN I THOUGHT YOU'D BE.


SHUT UP. MORE IMPORTANTLY, TELL ME THE REASON WHY YOU DID IT

SILENCE

SLIDE...
..SURVEY?
..DON'T HAVE ONE IT'S WAS JUST A BIT OF A SURVEY.
RIGHT. OF HOW A RUMOR WOULD SPREAD.
THE WAY YOUR RUMOR SPREAD WAS EXTRAORDINARY.
WHEN IT COMES TO RUMORS,
THE CONTENT MATTERS TOO, BUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS HOW YOU SPREAD THEM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

..CONVINCING? NO MATTER HOW FAR A RUMOR GOES, ISN'T IT JUST A RUMOR?


IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE ONLY THINGS THAT SEEM LIKE THE TRUTH, AND THINGS THAT SEEM LIKE LIES

LONG STORY SHORT, THIS S JUST SOMETHING LIKE THE ONLY HOBBY I HAVE N MY BORING LFE
Don't worry about it so much
...
Weirdo..

WHAT YOU TELL AND TO WHOM, THE ORDER, HOW YOU LET THE RUMOR SPREAD...
IF YOU DON'T CONSIDER ALL OF THESE, THE RUMOR WON'T BE CONVINCING.

GLANCE..
ANYWAY...
I'M MORE INTERESTED IN HOW YOU KNEW THAT IT WAS ME
SURPRISED
!
COULD YOU NOT USE PEOPLE FOR THAT KIND OF TASTELESS HOBBY?
Haha
HMM.. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
!!
...BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T... JUST STUDYING PEOPLE'S REACTIONS FOR NO REASON

HAHA! THAT'S PRETTY INTERESTING
PFFT
SHOOT...!! MY REAL THOUGHTS...
AH!
I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE TWO OF THE SAME BUNCH
ALTHOUGH WE'RE ON COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VECTORS.
Heh heh

19

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
BA-DUMP
—— WE BOTH LIVE IN AWARENESS OF PEOPLE'S RUMORS.

WELL, ALTHOUGH THAT'S SIMILAR TO MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND,
THE LEVEL YOU'RE AT IS SOMETHING TO BE FEARED
Hmm
...COULD YOU NOT TALK ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE THEY'RE SOME KIND OF DISEASE?
SHUDDER
!
YOU'VE BEEN CHECKING THE SURROUNDINGS FOR A WHILE NOW
IF SOMEONE COMES BY, YOU'RE GONNA GO RIGHT BACK TO BEING THE USUAL B-KO-SAN, RIGHT?
THUMP
THUMP
I DO IT BY NOT STANDING OUT,
WHILE YOU DO IT BY GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE

3: "TURN"
MEHE
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE.
WELL THEN, SEE YA.
SFX: EXTENDS HAND
...WAIT!
THIS IS HOW A-YA AND I MET.
WHISPER
AFTERWARDS, HE SHOWED NO SIGN OF REMORSE, AND CONTINUED TO SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT ME.
WHISPER
HOWEVER
GRRR
WHAT IS WITH THAT GUY
//

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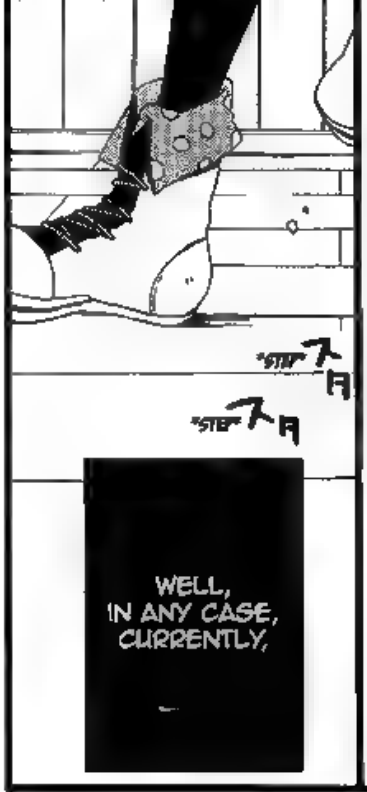
ALL OF THEM WERE IN THE FORM OF LETTERS, SO WELL WRITTEN THAT THEY WERE DESPICABLE.
WITHOUT KNOWING THE SOURCE OF THE RUMOR, AND EVEN WITH THE OCCULT-LIKE ELEMENTS IN THEM,
THEY WERE SPREAD AS SOMETHING THAT COULD ACTUALLY BE TRUE.
AS I CONTINUED TO QUESTION HIM, I SOMEHOW EVENTUALLY CAME TO JOIN THE MEETINGS IN THIS OLD BUILDING.
I KNOW YOU'RE IN HERE, A-YA!!
CLATTER
I ALSO REALIZED SOMETHING.
I REALIZED THAT I LIKE THINGS THAT HAD TO DO WITH THE OCCULT.
ALTHOUGH I HAVE NEVER FELT PASSION TOWARDS ANYTHING IN MY LIFE BEFORE,
WHEN I HEAR THINGS ABOUT THE OCCULT, I FEEL A TINGLING FEELING OF EXCITEMENT IN THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART.

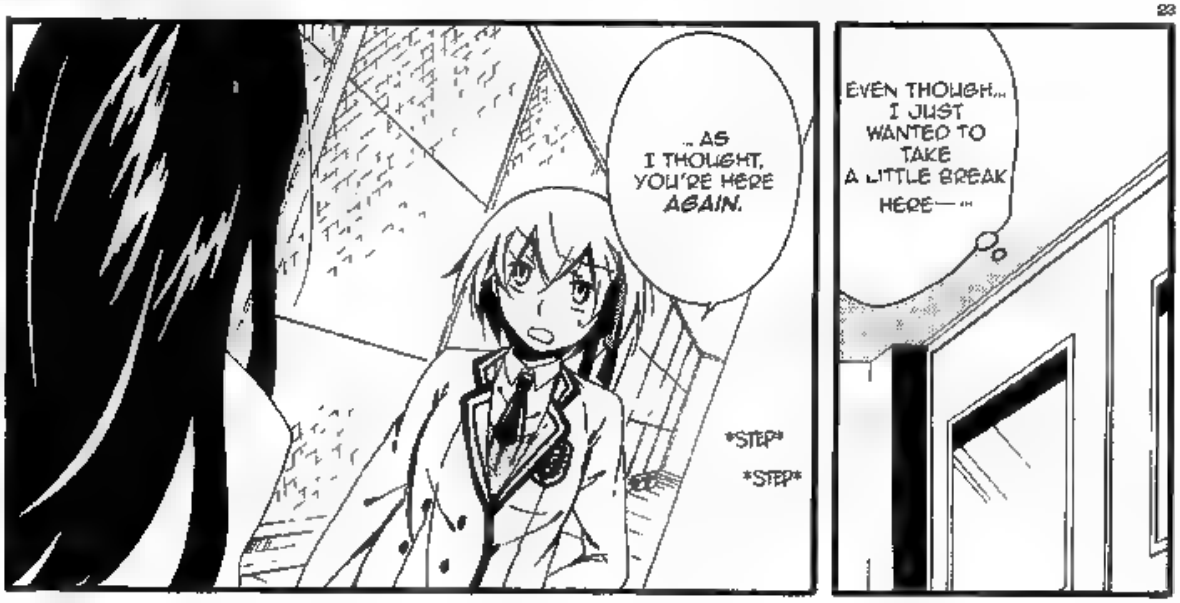

*STEP
*STEP
WELL, IN ANY CASE, CURRENTLY,

I GOT GOOSE BUMPS FROM THE FEELINGS OF BEING BOTH AFRAID
AND INTERESTED.
IN PARTICULAR, WHEN I HAD HEARD ABOUT HOW TEN YEARS AGO, THERE WAS AN INCIDENT AT THIS SCHOOL WHERE STUDENTS HAD DIED AN UNNATURAL DEATH.

I AM PLAYING THE PERFECT IMPOSTER
AND I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF A GROUP THAT SHARES "RUMORS" AFTER SCHOOL.

KER-CHIK
CLOUDY ? HOW UNPLEASANT...
TURNS
B-ko -chaaan~
!...

23


...AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE HERE AGAIN.
STEP
STEP
EVEN THOUGH... I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A LITTLE BREAK HERE—...

BY THE WAY, SHE'S ALSO ONE OF THE MEMBERS AT THE OLD BUILDING, SO SHE KNOWS ABOUT MY DUAL NATURE.
D-NE
EH- IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE~
BUT, YOU KNOW, I NEVER GET TO TALK TO B-KO-CHAN LIKE THIS, SO I'M HAPPY THAT WE CAN WHEN WE BE HERE
WHY'S THAT? JUST COME UP AND TALK TO ME
24
FIDGET
BUT...
THERE'S ALWAYS SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND B-KO-CHAN..

Smile
I DON'T.
BUT I LIKE B-KO-CHAN, SO I'M JUST HAPPY WE'RE ABLE TO TALK.
HM~... WELL, YOU'VE GOT A POINT...
You're in a different class too, so it's a long walk, huh —
WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH, YOU KNOW?
HAH...HAHA THANKS
KINDA LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA RAIN AGAIN, HUH?
YEAH, IT DOES

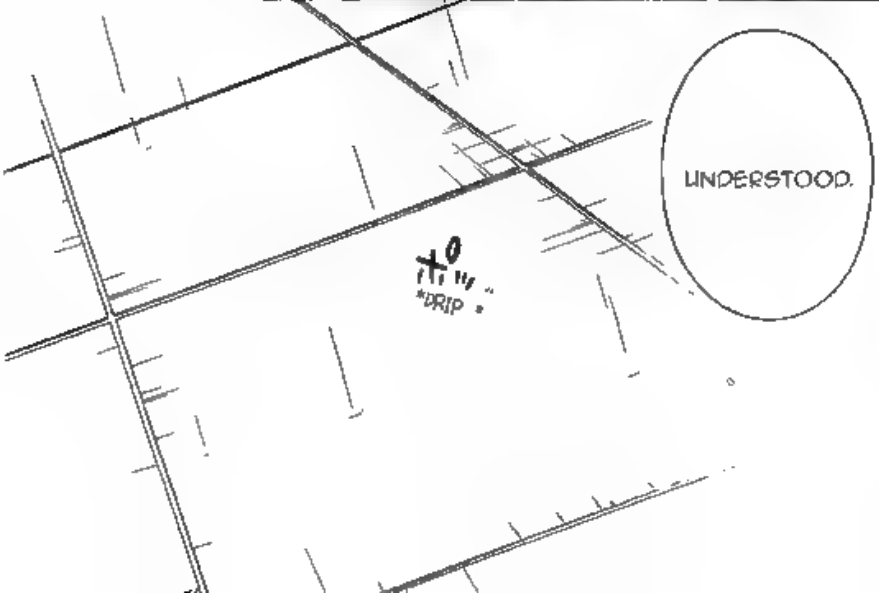
I HEARD THAT B-KO'S IMPOSTER APPEARED.
STARTLED
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY IMPOSTER?
LIKE, WHILE B-KO'S IN HER HOUSE, SOMEONE THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE HER IS GOING AROUND PLACES AT NIGHT?
EH? WHAT? LIKE SOME KIND OF MONSTER?
GASP
I DUNNO BUT YOU KNOW, B-KO'S A NICE GIRL, SO IT FEELS LIKE IT'LL BUILD UP?
FLUSH
B-Ko-chan sshh!
BUILD UP? WHAT WILL!?
AHAHAH THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN~
You're taking it too far—

SLAM
HMM..
BUT LIKE, I HEARD THERE'S PEOPLE THAT REALLY SAW IT-

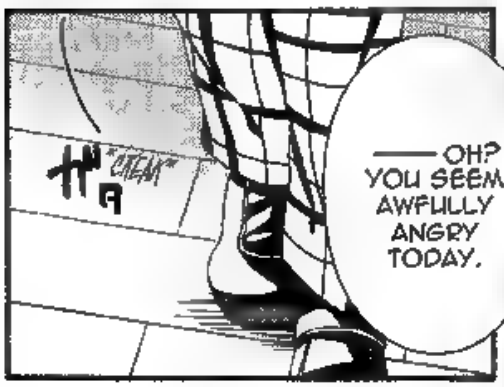
ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE RUMBLE
..... IT'S A-YA AGAIN。
IF IT'S ME + OCCULT, THEN IT'S NO MISTAKE.

..I'M GOING STRAIGHT TO THE OLD BUILDING AFTER SCHOOL

UFUFU.. B-KO-CHAN S CUTE WHEN SHE'S ANGRY, TOO
HOW DARE HE.. THIS S THE LAST STRAW.
KUHHH


UNDERSTOOD.
DRIP

SFX "SHAAA"
"CREAK"
"CREAK"


"CREAK"
—OH? YOU SEEM AWFULLY ANGRY TODAY.

"CLATTER"
The door's gonna break, y'know?

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF YOURS?

C-TA
As expected of my childhood friend, right?
AHH, THAT RUMOR? ISN'T IT A MASTER-PIECE?
AS USUAL, IT'S THE BEST.

HEY
...

ガラッ
CLATTER
Is this that whole "birds of a feather" deal?
...WHY YOU...

...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW!

—— NO, IT'S NOT JUST 'HEY'
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR BAD TASTES, BUT WOULD YOU STOP USING ME AS YOUR TOPIC?
スタ *STEP*
スタ *STEP*

WOAH
LOOK, IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL, AND YOU'RE SEEN LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW, PEOPLE WILL THINK, "IT'S AN IMPOSTER!"
YOU KNOW...
I'M SERIOUS, IF YOU DON'T STOP NOW...!

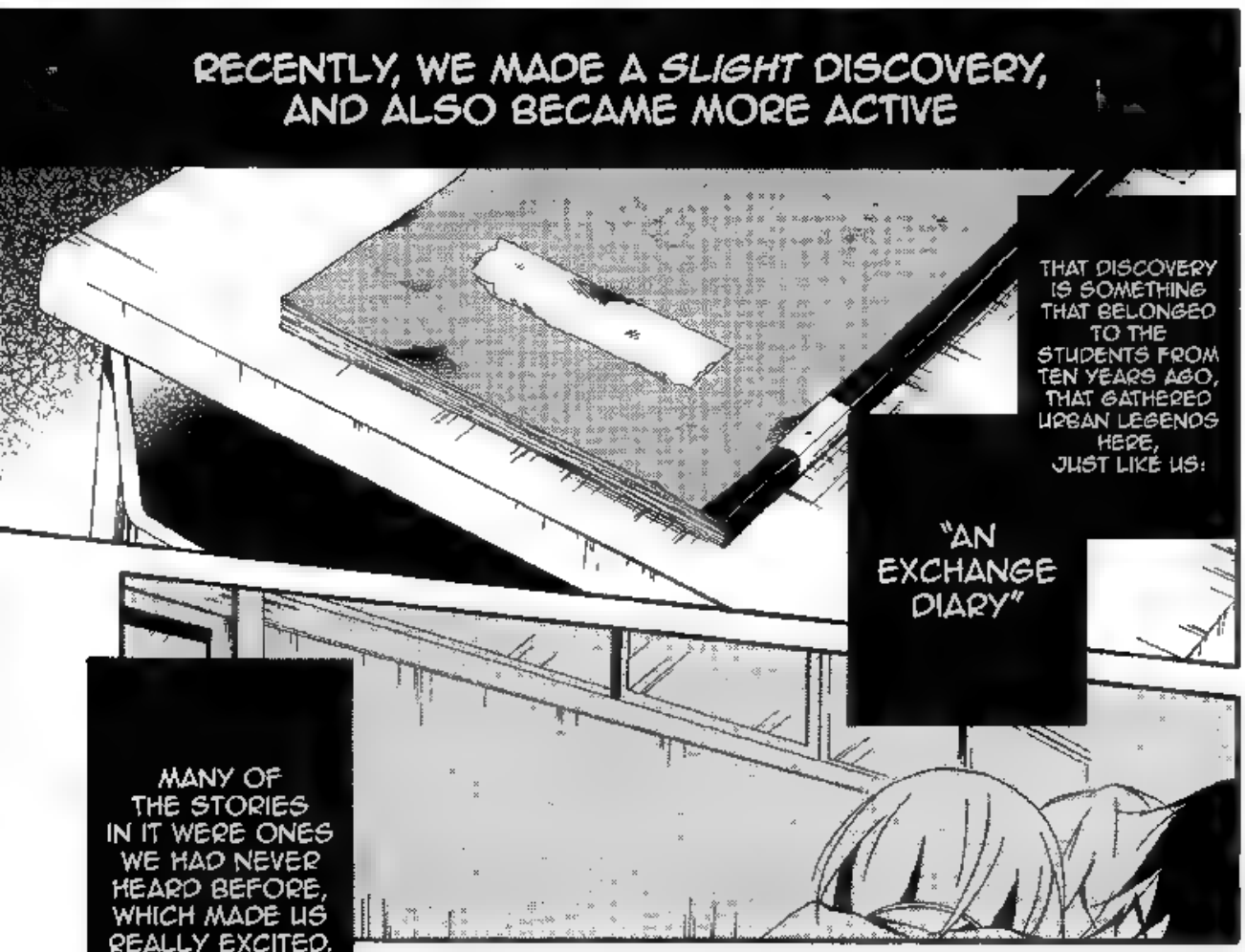
...I ONLY MEANT IT AS A LITTLE PRANK
YOU... ARE YOU TRYING TO OWN UP TO IT NOW...?

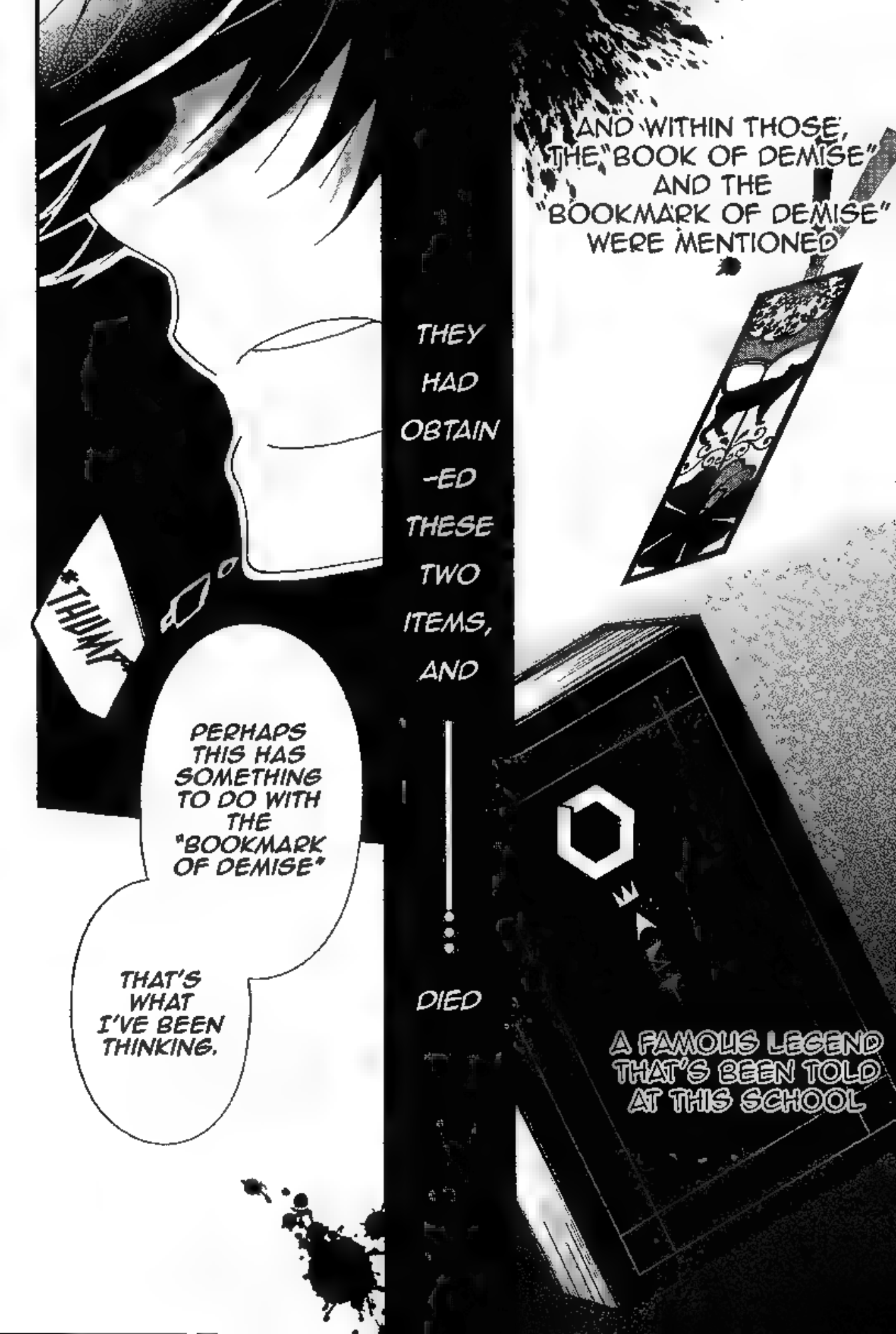
hehe
BUT, I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL THAT B-KO-CHAN HAS THAT DUAL NATURE.
!

D-NE...
YOU'RE SAYING IT LIKE I HAVE A SPLIT PERSONALITY...

WELL, TO BE HONEST, IT'S AT A LEVEL THAT IT SEEMS YOU REALLY MIGHT?
PFFT
UFUFU~

SHAAA...
SHUT UP, C-TA!
HAHA, AS USUAL, B-KO HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR D-NE, HUH?
SERIOUSLY.
JUST LIKE THIS, WE GATHER IN WITH THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING WITH NO REAL OBJECTIVE. HOWEVER...


RECENTLY, WE MADE A *SLIGHT* DISCOVERY, AND ALSO BECAME MORE ACTIVE
THAT DISCOVERY IS SOMETHING THAT BELONGED TO THE STUDENTS FROM TEN YEARS AGO, THAT GATHERED URBAN LEGENDS HERE, JUST LIKE US:
"AN EXCHANGE DIARY"
MANY OF THE STORIES IN IT WERE ONES WE HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE, WHICH MADE US REALLY EXCITED.


AND WITHIN THOSE, THE "BOOK OF DEMISE" AND THE "BOOKMARK OF DEMISE" WERE MENTIONED
THEY HAD OBTAIN -ED THESE TWO ITEMS, AND
DIED
A FAMOUS LEGEND THAT'S BEEN TOLD AT THIS SCHOOL
*THUMP
PERHAPS THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE "BOOKMARK OF DEMISE"
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKING.

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..ANYWAY, THE LAST ATTEMPT AT KOKKURI-SAN FAILED.
FAILED..?
WE WEREN'T ABLE TO OBTAIN THE BOOK OF DEMISE OR THE BOOKMARK OF DEMISE, RIGHT?
SHAAAA
GULP
IT'S TRUE THAT WE DIDN'T DO IT AS IT SAID IN THE RULES.. BUT..

LET'S DO IT ONE MORE TIME
IN THIS WAY, WE BEGAN KOKKURI-SAN IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BOOKMARK OF DEMISE, JUST LIKE IT WAS WRITTEN IN THE DIARY.
WE WERE CAREFUL TO REPLICATE THE STEPS EXACTLY...
NEXT, EVERYONE WILL ASK EACH OTHER QUESTIONS IN TURN
TO START OFF, SOMEONE TRY ASKING ME SOMETHING
...OKAY, WAS A-YA'S DINNER LAST NIGHT MADE OF MEAT?

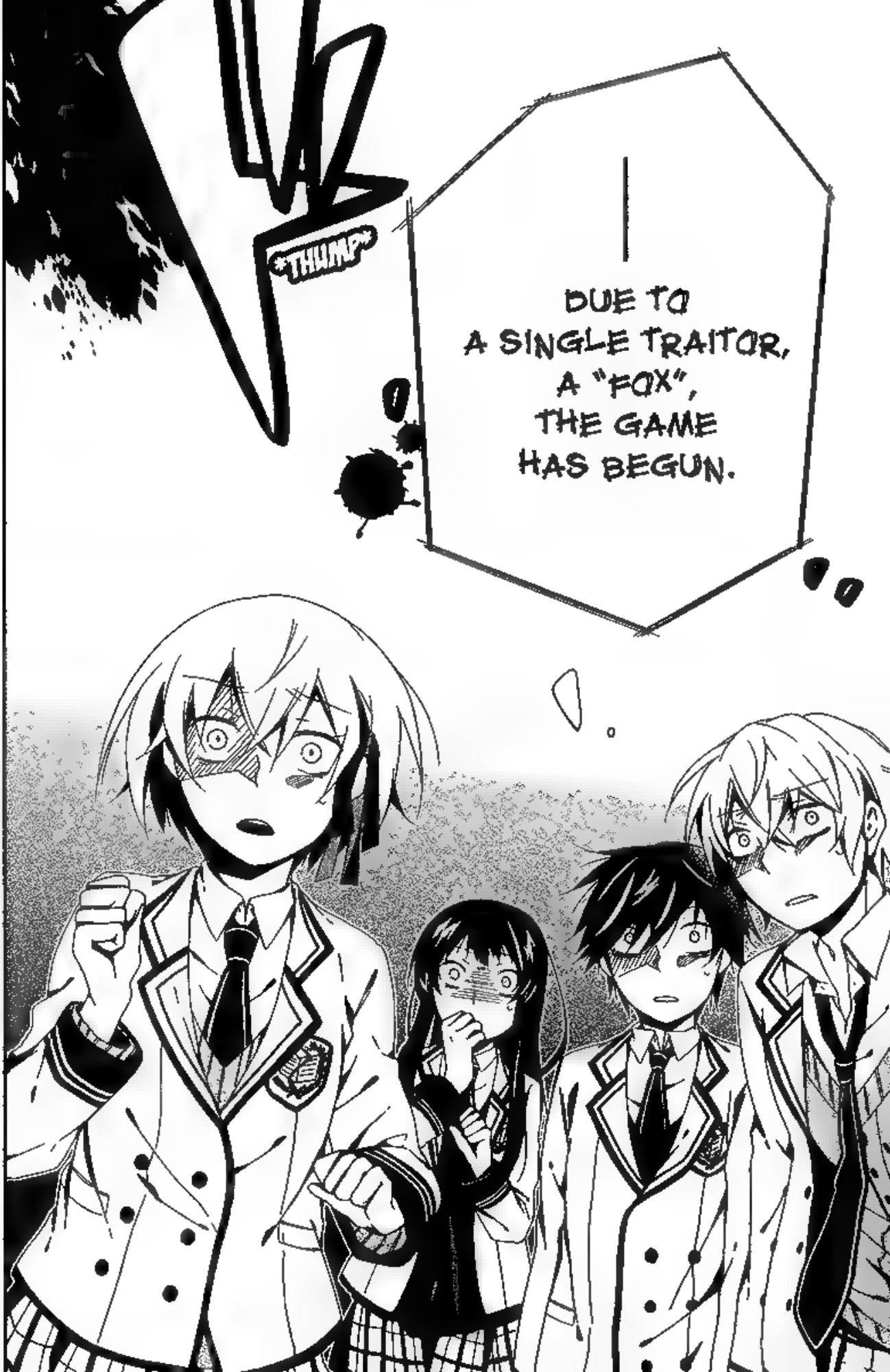
BA-BUMP
THUMP
!
IT SAYS "YES" ..SO WHAT DID YOU EAT?
.....
UM
IT WAS HAMBURGER STEAK..
THUMP
SLIDE...
AH,
IT STARTED MOVING!
..WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
IT'S THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF ON THE SPOT..
THUMP
KOKKURI-SAN, KOKKURI-SAN, PLEASE RETURN TO THE GATE
SLIDE...
THUMP
BA-BUMP
THEN, NEXT IS B-KO.

GYAA
WH-.. WHA-... WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT.. !?
GYAA
LOOK.. B-KO-CHAN, IT'S NOT GOOD IF YOU DON'T CALM DOWN..
SLIDE...
RRGH
AH... AHHH ...GEEZ...
LOOM
WHAT !?
!!?
SHOCK
...DOES B-KO HAVE A CRUSH ON ANYONE?
SO IT'S "YES"? HUH...
HEY!! IF YOU'RE GOING TO ASK, WHY'RE YOU REACTING LIKE THAT!?
GRRR
WHEN I THOUGHT IT OVER, I WASN'T ACTUALLY THAT CURIOUS, THAT'S ALL.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HE'S DEFINITELY

NNGH
THINKING OF USING THIS INFORMATION FOR ANOTHER ONE OF HIS RUMORS, ISN'T HE...?
SO RUDE OF HIM.
AH... KOKKURI-SAN, PLEASE RETURN TO THE GATE
She looks so calm. Well, whatever
DOES D-NE HAVE A CRUSH ON ANYONE!?
ARE YOU F NE WITH IT BEING SUCH A BORING QUESTION?
Aston! Shed
GO AHEAD?
TURNS
N-.. NEXT IS D-NE'S TURN. ALRIGHT, HERE I GO.
OKAY.

...EH? THAT'S BECAUSE
SLIDE..
yes
HUH
SO D-NE-CHAN HAS SOMEONE SHE LIKES TOO, HUH?
Smiles
I LOVE B-KO.
IT'S NO USE.. I CAN'T KEEP CA..M IF D-NE'S GOING TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, WE MIGHT HAVE MADE A GRAVE MISTAKE.
I WAS SHOCKED THEN, AND CAN ONLY RECALL BITS AND PIECES.
BUT, AT THAT TIME

ZAZAA
THUMP
STARTLED
!?
WH-WHAT?
ZAAAA
NO... STOP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
!


THUMP
DUE TO A SINGLE TRAITOR, A "FOX", THE GAME HAS BEGUN.

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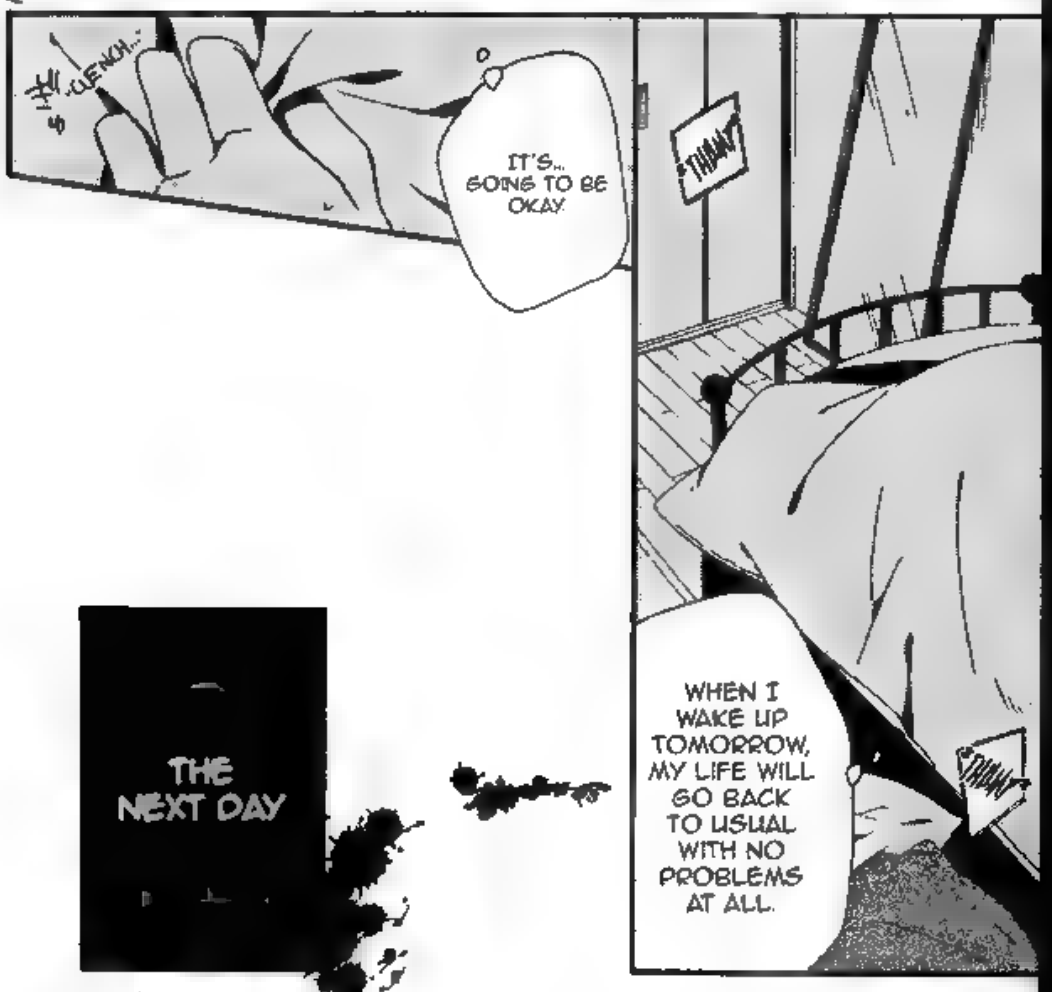
"FOX"?
"TRAITOR"...?
GULP...
...WHA... WHAT WAS THAT.. J-JUST NOW?
DA DUMP
ZA—!...
.. I DON'T KNOW.
THUMP
THUMP
I-IT'S JUST SOME KIND OF BAD JOKE, RIGHT..?
"SILENCE"
THUMP
THUMP
....ANYWAY, LET'S JUST GO HOME FOR TODAY.
SOMEONE SPOKE UP, AND ON THEIR SUGGESTION, WE LEFT THE SCHOOL.

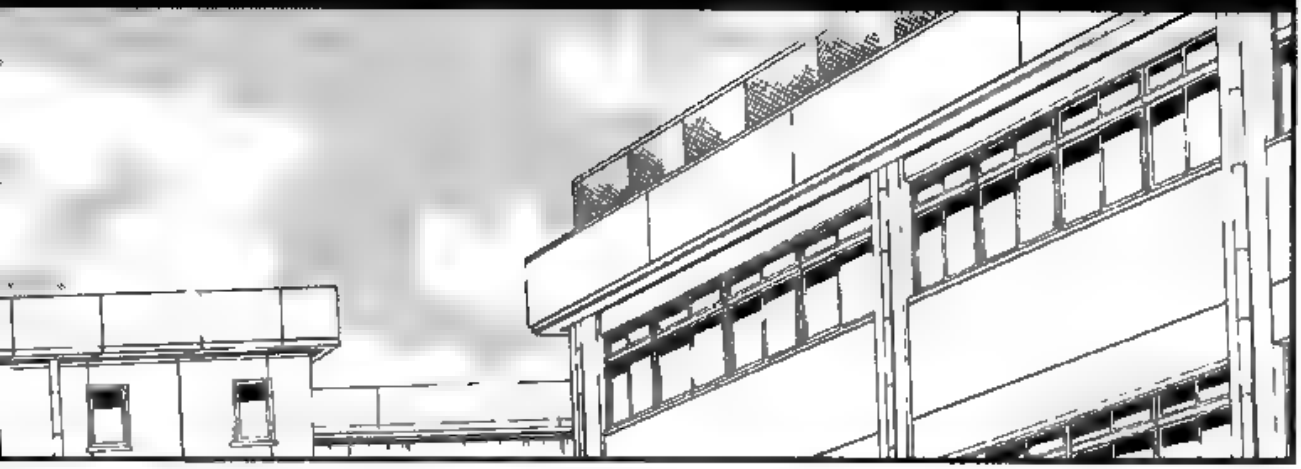


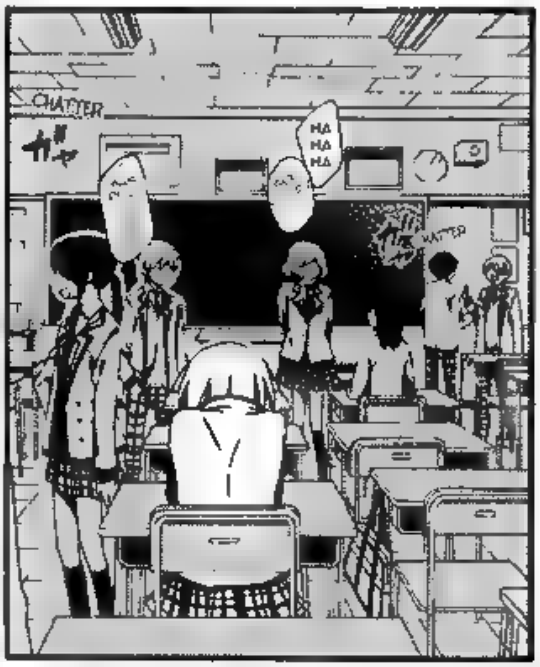
THE NEXT DAY

HOWEVER

AT THAT TIME, WE HAD YET TO UNDER-STAND EVEN 1% OF WHAT TRUE FEAR WAS LIKE

MY CLASSMATE AT SCHOOL WAS FOUND DEAD, SPLIT INTO AN UPPER HALF AND BOTTOM HALF





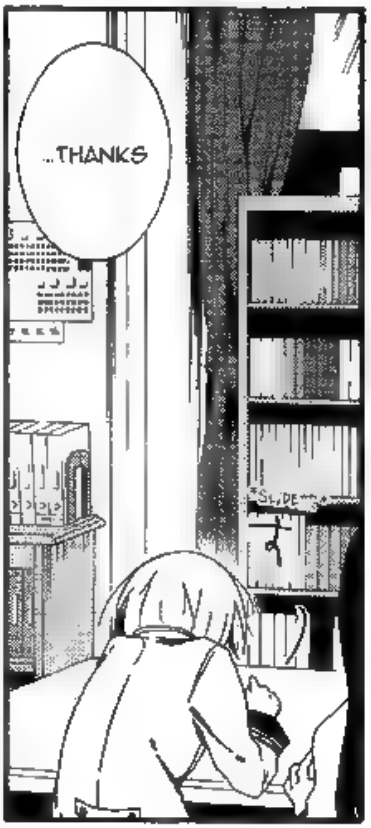
——THIS IS THE WORK OF THE "BOOKMARK OF DEMISE"

IF SOMEONE OTHER THAN US HAS DIED
IT MEANS THAT HE SAW THE LETTER THAT ONE OF US RECEIVED
BUT, DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE GOING TO BE KILLED, TOO?
IN THE SAME WAY?
OR IN AN EVEN MORE BRUTAL WAY!?
I'M SCARED I'M SCARED I'M SO SCARED……!!!
NO NO NO NO NO NO

WHO'S THE TRAITOR!?
BAM
HEY, WHO TOLD HIM!?
I KNEW THAT SHOUTING WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
IN END, WE SIMPLY CONFIRMED THAT WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS SITUATION
THERE WAS NO WAY THAT I COULD RELAX.

..B-KO-CHAN,
ARE YOU OKAY?
*REACH

...I'M SORRY THAT I LOST IT...


..THANKS

IT'S OKAY

I-I'VE BEEN A LITTLE CURIOUS ABOUT .WELL. IT'S NOT LIKE WE OBTAINED THE BOOK OR THE BOOKMARK SO.
YEAH.
...YEAH
THIS ISN'T A DREAM, IS IT?
EVEN NOW, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
47
B-KO -CHA...
AHAHA, SORRY! I KNOW THAT I'M A LIAR...
AND. IT'S USELESS NO MATTER WHAT A FAT LIAR LIKE ME SAYS, BUT I DIDN'T BETRAY ANYONE, AND I WOULDN'T EVER
THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE...
IT WON'T BE LIKE TEN YEARS AGO, SO...
...
ZZ
TURN
B-KO -CHAN!
FLINCH

SQUEEZE..
SO... PLEASE DON'T WORRY...
I WILL PROTECT YOU, B-KO -CHAN.

smile
I LOVE YOU, E-KO-CHAN, SO OF COURSE I WOULD PROTECT YOU.
MM-HM.
sigh
THANK YOU
...I GUESS SO. THANK YOU. I REALLY LIKE YOU TOO.
HI*THUNK*
D-NE?

...IT WASN'T A LIE, YOU KNOW?
...THAT, I MEAN.
DOES O-NE HAVE A CRUSH ON ANYONE!?
EH
IN THE MIDST OF THE FEARING THE "BOOK-MARK OF DEMISE"—A SUDDEN CONFESS-ION... AND A KISS...
WHAT...?
TO BE CONTINUED
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